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Standardization of Service as well as Wages Urged by Railroad Conductor

Smiths Falls, Jan. 18th, 1921

Editor, Canadian Railroader:

I have read with interest your first letter on "The Tragedy of the Road," and I believe the subject is deserving of wide discussion among the railway men.

I have always said and advocated that part of the work of our large railway organizations should be, not only the standardization of wages, but with this the standardization of service.

The evil you speak of, where it exists, can and should be got rid of. Personally, I have my own ideas how this should be accomplished, but let me say this, that I believe, with the joint co-operation of the employer and employee, the matter should be easier solved than it has been in the past.

The rank and file are ready and I feel sure, will work earnestly to get this sting out of their employment.

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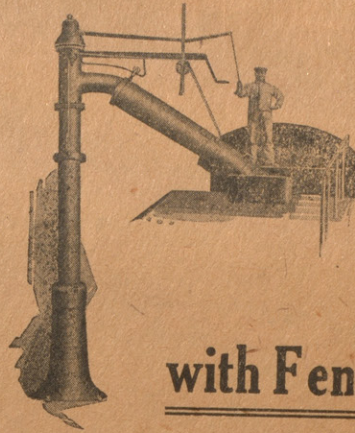
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A Sound Morality Needed In Place of the Big Stick

Mr. J. M. Dudley the contributor of the following letter to the discussion of the articles on "The Greatest Tragedy of the Road," is a one-time conductor at present attached to the Railroad Branch of the Y.M.C.A.

Editor, Canadian Railroader:—

The editorial in the Canadian Railroader of January 8th, by Mr. George Pierce, opens up a question that must command the thought and interest of every man who has a part in railway service. Mr. Pierce is right in saying that the process of correction must be one of education. Policemen, detectives, courts and jails are still a necessity. But at least a fraction of the huge sums of money now being spent by governments and corporations on the big stick, should be applied to a scientific, non-sectarian moral education. The financial loss to business and the home through wrongdoing adds an economic reason to the more usually presented moral one for war on wickedness. The dividends of capital and the welfare of the working man's home, are alike touched for gain or loss by the degree to which a moral conscience guides the acts of men.

In this particular case, we must consider, first, the man directly implicated in "The Greatest Tragedy of the Road," second the man who has not failed in his fidelity to trust and conscience, and third, the young railroad man who will come to the place of responsibility when the older man drops out.

There can be no real justice where there is no mercy. Many are turned from the wrong path by leniency and a second chance, but the hardened crook must find no defender among decent railway men. A reasonable chance is the due of the man implicated.

The hope of the future lies with that vast majority who have kept faith and whose record is clear. They possess the most effective force for creating satisfactory conditions on the railways by their united will to uphold the good and put down the wrong. The Brotherhoods and all honest men in the service must say to the wrongdoer, "Be square and we are with you, but if you persist in wrong conduct we will use our united efforts to eliminate you and to put a worthy man in your place." They must grapple with those evils which start men new in the service on the wrong course. The first impressions of the new employee are likely to be the most dominant and lasting, therefore he must be impressed early with the thought that railway service demands high standards of morality and that only those who strive to measure up to them can expect promotion at the hands of the company and support at the hands of their companions in service.

The thief must be made to fear his fellow employee who jealously guards the good name of his calling, as much or more than he fears the detective. This is not to say that a report will go to the company, but that a report will go to the Brother-

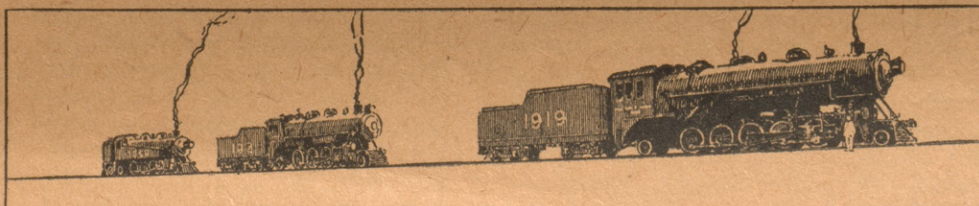
hood quickly and surely. To countenance wrongdoing is disloyalty to the railway clan in as great or greater degree than it is disloyalty to the company. The house cleaning must come from within and must include all branches of railway service. The wrongdoing is not all on passenger trains. It must be borne in mind that thieving is usually accompanied by other forms of evil. The moral fibre is first broken down by gambling and other gross habits before men begin to steal. Stealing indicates that the whole structure of manhood is tumbling down.

A sound morality and a clean manhood is the only safeguard against the efforts of the slimy briber, and against the suggestions that so often arise from within. A conscience that never sleeps or fails is the sure wall of defence for railway men and all men. Education that probes to the roots of evil is alone equal to its eradication.

Just as all railway men, high and low, have worked together to build up an almost faultless code of rules in order to protect life, so must they unite to raise up moral standards designed to ensure that the rules are carried out. The task is large and progress will be slow, but the railways of to-day in their perfection of appliances and invention are the result of years of unwearied thought and toil. In the years ahead the great question will be the elimination of risk and loss of life and property through the failure of the human factor. Some hard blows will have to be struck and things will have to be called by their right names. But who are these stalwart knights of the rail to waver before an enemy, or to fail to answer the plain call of duty!

The writer, who owes much to the discipline and experience of train service, hopes the day is near when officers and employees will recognize the fact that reliable character must rest on a moral foundation, and he hopes to see officers and employees co-operate in a definite effort to lay such foundation. Practical moral teaching must find its springs in the principles of Christ. We must set forth not the Protestants' God, nor the Catholics' God, nor that imaginary God, who cannot be shut up in gloomy churches and visited and worshipped there, on condition that he keeps out of the way in business and every day affairs, but the true God of life, love and power. We must make a place for this God in the everyday affairs of men. The nations of the earth crowded God out and put in His place a satanic diplomacy. The men of business and transportation now face an opportunity to profit by the mistakes of the past and to blaze the way for a better and more prosperous world.

J. M. DUDLEY,
One-Time Conductor.



A Scandal Creditable to All

(Dearborn Independent)

A CASUAL reader of a recent issue of the Vancouver Province on seeing a flaring headline, "John Kissed Mary Ellen," would probably have scented a breach of promise case, or a domestic scandal of some sort, but a perusal of the story soon would have convinced him that the incident thus described was highly creditable to both parties and left them with their reputations intact.

On December 1, there had been a general election for the provincial legislature of British Columbia, at which the old Liberal Government had been returned after a hard-fought struggle and, on the third, the victorious Liberals gathered from all parts of the province in Vancouver to celebrate their victory. From Victoria, the capital, which is situated on Vancouver Island, there came a strong contingent headed by the veteran premier, John Oliver, who owns the highly creditable sobriquet of "Honest John," and is the hero of the adventure above recounted.

The lady in the case is "Mary Ellen" to her familiars and the Vancouver populace but officially she is Mrs. Ralph Smith, senior member of the British Columbia legislature for Vancouver City which on December 1 had returned her at the poll well ahead of a very popular returned soldier, Captain Ian Mackenzie, and the provincial attorney-general. The newspaper story described how the premier entered the room to the strains of a brass band and pipers and how he almost started a riot by meeting "Mary Ellen" at the edge of the platform, embracing her and delivering a sound kiss in front of a wildly cheering audience. From the applause which greeted his daring performance it was plain that it excited no disapproval among his followers and that Mary Ellen was the most popular figure in the gathering. The press account asserted that "Honest John," whose years are well beyond the allotted span, blushed for several minutes but in his subsequent speech he said that the appreciation of the Vancouver electors for Mary Ellen was so complete that it was the only thing left for him to do to show his sentiment.

Mary Ellen, the heroine of this agreeable episode, is a pleasant-faced gray-haired woman who is obviously in the late fifties or early sixties; long domiciled in Canada, she is an Englishwoman by birth, born of that fine Devonshire stock which has given so much good blood to the North American Continent. Her maiden name was Spear and in 1883 she married Ralph Smith, a clever young Northumbrian who pursued the double occupation of miner and local Methodist preacher. After they had been blessed with some children they decided to try their fortunes in a country which offered better prospects for them-



MRS. RALPH SMITH

selves and their family and in 1892 turned to Vancouver Island where Mr. Smith found work in the mines at Nanaimo, owned by the Dunsmuir family. He had been actively interested in progressive politics before he left England and had acquired a good working knowledge of social and economic problems, of which there was no lack in his new environment. He soon made his mark as a local speaker and when in 1896 the decaying Conservative Government had to face the electorate the miners of the Nanaimo district nominated him as a Labor candidate. The liberals of the division stood aside and gave him independent support with the result that he was one of the first pair of Labor members ever sent to Ottawa. In the years following he played a very useful part in the Federal House, and was recognized as a sane and reliable spokesman of the interests of labor. In 1916 he accepted a Liberal nomination for Vancouver and later was made minister of finance in the new Liberal cabinet. His responsibilities were heavy and there was the added anxiety of two sons in France. His health broke down and he had scarcely got into harness when he died.

Mrs. Smith's long residence at Ottawa had made her thoroughly familiar with political highways and byways. Like her husband she has not always seen eye to eye with the Liberal party and has often thought it too backward and timid. She was intensely interested in war work of various kinds and when the Liberals offered her the nomination she declined it on the ground that she was averse to stirring up party feeling in a time of national crisis. But it was another matter when she was asked to run as an independent and she accepted the honor, especially when the organizations of the soldiers' wives clamored for her to be a candidate. She was easily elected by a majority of 3,515 and took her seat on the cross benches at Victoria.

There were other independent members, but within a week "Mary Ellen" was their acknowledged leader. In no sense a conservative, she was in general sympathy with the policy of the Liberal Government which Premier Brewster had formed and which on his death Mr. Oliver carried on. But she kept a vigilant eye on their proceedings and made them pay a price for the votes of herself and her group. The price was thoroughly honorable to all parties concerned and consisted in the enactment of an extensive series of social reforms. In this department she came gradually to dominate the Oliver Government and her endorsement of a project usually meant that sooner or later it would be embodied in legislation. She is a keen temperance reformer and helped to put a measure of moderate prohibition on the statute book. She was the real author of the Mothers' Pensions Act which has brought freedom from gnawing care to scores of homes. Thanks to her efforts British Columbia now enjoys excellent laws in regard to factory inspection and she has taken a special interest in the lot of working girls. Her connection with the war has made her an indefatigable champion of the soldiers and their dependents. She is a member of almost endless boards, and no organization in her city is properly constituted unless "Mary Ellen" has some share in its control.

Her family is five in number and though all are grown, she finds time to maintain the closest of relations with them, and does not sacrifice all private ties to the exigencies of public life.

Mrs. Smith is a speaker of no mean power; flights of intellectual oratory she shuns and despises but she has fine gifts of common-sense speech and racy phrasing and an audience which she addresses will never be dull. To judge by results she is one of the most effective vote-getters in Canada.

During her three sessions of the legislature she stoutly maintained her independence but she developed a great personal liking and regard for Mr. Oliver, and came to believe that she had no real excuse for not giving him definite allegiance. So she announced before the election that she would abandon her independence and take a place on the regular Liberal ticket for the city of Vancouver. At this news there was great jubilation in the Liberal and a corresponding gloom in Tory circles, for it was well known to both that "Mary Ellen" commanded the devotion of a large train of personal followers and admirers.

In Vancouver City the Conservative party had a capable leader in the former premier of the province. There is also a strong Labor party which had nominated candidates. So the Liberals viewed the polling day with some misgiving and scarcely expected to retain all the four seats they had previously held out of six. But when the votes were counted, they found to their joy that five of

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Breakfast Cocoa

4 tablespoons cocoa
3 tablespoons sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla
2 cups boiling water
2 cups milk
Few grains salt

Method:—Mix cocoa, sugar and salt. Add boiling water gradually. Boil ten minutes or until thick. Add scalded milk, or add milk cold and heat over hot water. Boil until thick froth forms to prevent scum forming, add vanilla. Serve at once in warm cups.

G107



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the six Liberal candidates headed the list and the Conservative ex-premier had only scraped in above the sixth. Nor was there any jealousy of the fact that "Mary Ellen" ran several thousand ahead of the general ticket. Their majority over all other parties is not large and if "Mary Ellen" had been either hostile or neutral, it would have gone hard with them. So the premier had every justification for his grateful salutation on the day after the victory. Mrs. Smith is now one of the political potentates of the Pacific province of Canada and it is doubtful if there is any more influential woman in Canadian public life.

"How did you list the money that fortune-teller got from you?"

"I put it under the head of prophet and lost."

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British Workers Asked To Submit To Universal Shorter Hours

"Ration the Jobs" Proposal Meets With Scant Approval.

(From Our London Correspondent).
London.

STILL the ogre of unemployment grows bigger and bigger. The million mark is passed and discharges continue to be the daily news.

The Government prodded by Labor to do something to relieve the accumulating distress and prevent more, has put its thinking cap on and evolved a brilliant scheme. A year or so ago we were told that all British workers needed to do to bring complete prosperity to everybody was to produce more. They took the hint. Now the warehouses are stuffed so full with goods that the feeble continental market cannot buy anything like what we have to sell. So the Government now says, "Put everybody on short time and, of course, short wages, and all will be (comparatively) well."



Ethelbert Pogson

Labor begs leave to doubt it, although the President of the Board of Trade has put it ever so ingeniously. Sir Robert Horne co-operates in this fashion:

"In view of the depression of trade which prevails in many places at the present time, the Government are anxious that the existing volume of work should be shared to the widest extent possible among the whole body of the wage earning classes.

"In some industries the practice of working short time, with the object of providing employment for a larger number of people, is well established; in others the nature of the industry may make any such arrangement difficult.

"But the Government feels that much can be done by employers in general to alleviate distress by distributing the existing opportunities for employment among as many as possible of their employees, so that the largest numbers may be enabled to earn a portion of their usual wages.

"A system of short time may enable employers not only to spread their work for a longer time over the existing number of employees, but also to give employment to some who have already been discharged.

"The Government, therefore, ask that all employers should consider at once what rearrangements can be made to give partial employment to the maximum number of work-people.

"It will probably be found, in many cases, that the question can best be approached in consultation with the trade unions concerned, on whose co-operation the Government feel confident they can rely."

Labor naturally wants to know how short the time is going to be and how much wages are to be reduced. Protest resolutions are being passed in all the industrial centres, the most emphatic coming from those towns where are Government factories already decided upon. Portsmouth dockyard and Woolwich arsenal have spoken very plainly about it.

In the arsenal it was announced that there would be a loss of one week's work in six, but that this would not affect moulders, engineers or the general supervising staff, who would be retained on full time. The answer of the employees was that this would bring down wages to \$14.50 per week, as against \$18.50 being now paid. If the worst came to the worst, they would submit to a complete closure every Saturday, which would be serving everybody alike and save \$38,500 per week to pay for work for others.

At a special Labor conference held in London at which about a thousand delegates were present from all parts of the country a strong resolution was passed on the motion of Mr. Tom Shaw, M.P., seconded by Mr. Ben Turner, both of the Textile Trades.

The resolution attributed unemployment in a large measure to the interruption in world trading following on the war and the defective Peace treaties, in addition to the folly of the British and Allied policy in relation to the Soviet Government of Russia; condemned the Government for the unwarrantable delay in securing peace and re-opening trade relationships with the Russian Government; further condemned the Government for failing to make provision for the prevention of unemployment, and declared that existing unemployment can only be substantially alleviated by such a free flow of commodities as before the war made this country one of the principal manufacturing and distributing countries of the world. The conference proceeded to call upon the Government to take effective steps to secure the restoration of the economic life of Central Europe by a scheme for providing adequate credits; to discontinue the destruction of normal trading facilities by means of indefensible legal quibbles; expressed the opinion that the Government and the local authorities should make the fullest use of legislative and administrative powers to facilitate the provision

of immediate work under satisfactory conditions for unemployed men and women. The delegates reiterated the demand for, as an emergency measure, the immediate adoption of the following proposals by the Government:

(1) That a person for whom no work is available at the Employment Exchanges, or through his or her Trade Union, shall be entitled to maintenance;

(2) That the rate of maintenance (including other benefits) shall be at least \$10.00 per week for each householder, and \$6.25 per week for each single man or woman, with additional allowances for dependents.

Finally, the resolution urged the imperative need for dealing with the permanent causes and conditions of unemployment and warned the Government that both the unemployed and the employed workers are not prepared to remain the victims of the pernicious economic system which exposes them and their families to hardship and demoralization as a consequence of unemployment.

I am prepared to say that nothing has been done. The Government has taken steps towards forming a committee. Unfortunately, there is a little hitch over such trifles as personnel and terms of reference. Still, there is one consolation. By the time these matters have straightened themselves out the winter will probably be over and the hardship of the unemployed mitigated to that extent.

The report of the Labor Commission which went to Ireland is a horrifying indictment of the Hamar Greenwood regime and the "Black and Tans," as the Auxiliary Police are called. Shooting, burning and robbery were found to be but incidents and the Labor conference referred to above was not slow in expressing its indignation. A great national campaign is being inaugurated with the view of arousing the public conscience.

The strike of insurance officials employed by the General Accident Assurance Corporation against dismissal of certain members and to secure recognition of the Insurance Official Guild is still on.

The efforts of the Ministry of Labor to secure a meeting between the Guild and the Corporation have failed.

The Ministry has sent a statement by the chairman of the corporation in which the latter said that the Guild's talk about victimization was "a piece of impertinence and misrepresentation."

A conference of 47 non-manual trade unions, after deciding again to approach the Minister of Labor, discussed means of bringing pressure on the Government and the insurance company.

Eventually it was agreed to set up a small council of action among the insurance trade unions to continue the strike.

—Ethelbert Pogson.

Peterboro's City Council has set aside \$2,000 for relief work.

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Journalism in the Dock

Upton Sinclair's "Brass Check" Most Terrific Indictment of Press Ever Made

(By Kennedy Crone).

"THE Brass Check," by Upton Sinclair, Socialist, is the most terrific indictment of the press that has ever been made. More than 100,000 copies of the book have been sold, although it is not on sale in the ordinary book stores (being sold direct by the author at Pasadena, Cal.), and although the press has practically ignored it. Some newspapers are now paying a little attention to it, mostly in an attacking way.

Sinclair writes particularly of the American press, but includes the Canadian press by inference at a number of points in his narrative, notably in his denunciation of the Associated Press, the American news agency which daily supplies most American and Canadian newspapers with most of their telegraph and cable news. His vision of the press is of a machine controlled by the big interests for forming the thought of readers along lines suited to the aims of the interests; of the prostitution of the professional talents of journalists; of a liar and a "fakir"; of a business without heart or soul (while cleverly pretending to have both); of fooling most of the common people most of the time.

The book is written in the form of evidence, with names, dates and places clearly set out. If it is untrue, it has more potential libel actions to the chapter than a hedgehog has quills. I have been in all corners of the newspaper game on two continents for a longer time than I care to think about, and my reputation as a holder of briefs for publishers as a class is worth about two cents; but I am not able to say how true the book is. On the face of it, in the light of what I know, and trying to be fair, I would say that some of the things he says are true, that some ring true, that some are apparently looked at through a reversed telescope, that some may be true as he words them yet untrue in the sense he puts upon them, and that there are some I would be frankly sceptical about.

Even if the book is not all true, perhaps somewhat discolored and distorted by the author's particular viewpoint of society and his particular personal experiences, there is enough of truth in it to be of service and make it worth-while reading. If it is all true, not merely in its record of personal history, but in its application to the American press generally, it is about time the American people cut out the foolishness and got down to hard pan. It is not all true of the Canadian press as a whole; if it was, I'd say so just as quickly as Upton Sinclair.

Incidentally, if most Canadian newspapers have not reviewed the

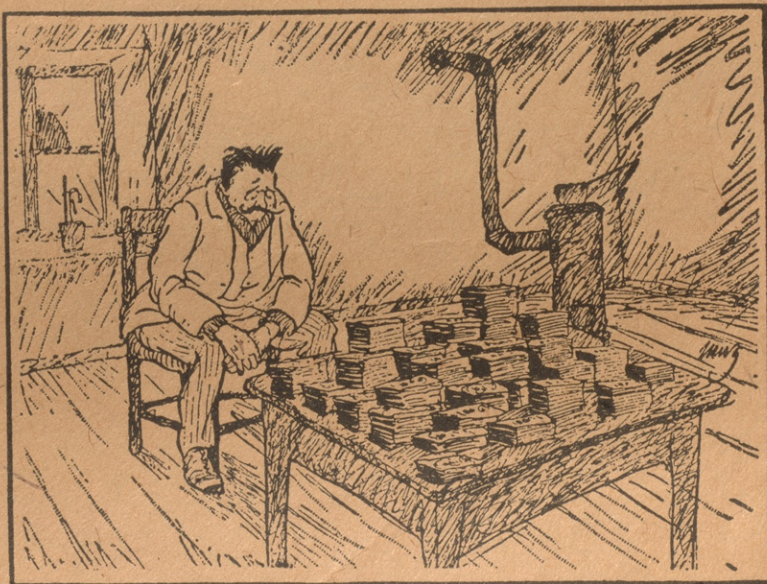
book, most Canadian journalists have read it, discussed it among themselves and formed their own opinions about it. So much is good.

Those employed in newspaper editorial departments know that things are not as they should be, but the rub is how to put something better in their place. As conditions are, the brutal truth is that the first duty of a big newspaper is to make dividends and the first duty of a journalist is to earn his daily bread. The economic urge is the most urgent, and what does the reading public do in the matter? The newspaper reader usually expects to get his newspaper for about half of what it costs to produce, and compels the publisher to seek advertis-

family had to sink private fortunes in it to keep it alive, and it eventually died. Considering their difficulties of balancing conduct with cash, many newspapers do rather well towards the public. The publishers who are gougers and conspirators and unscrupulous manipulators are merely extreme examples of the natural product of the system.

Ordinary newspaper readers are losing confidence in the public press. The public press lost confidence in the readers long ago. Still, a lot of sincere and earnest journalists think loss of confidence is a healthy sign, a stage forward in the public awakening to a serious survey of the subject and a consideration of what

NOTHING BUT MONEY AND MONEY BUT NOTHING.



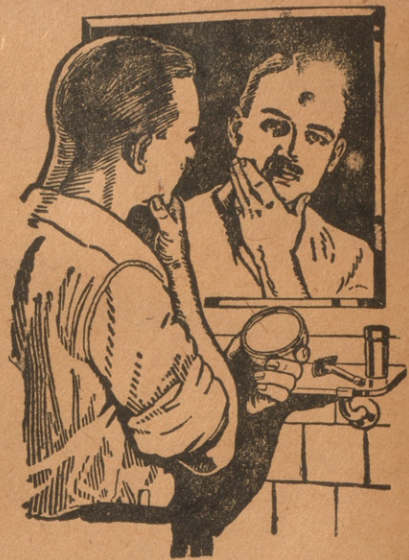
The Garret-Dweller—"I now have a million. Three-quarters of it goes for rent and heating, and I may be able to get some bread and cheese with the remainder."

—Lustige Blatter (Berlin).

ing and other means of revenue and assistance lest his paper die. A paper that is losing money is a paper dying, no matter how fine its aims may be, and no matter how fine its aims may be that is no guarantee that it will earn enough money to live. On the contrary the higher the conduct of a paper the less likely is it to earn enough money to go on printing. This may seem frightfully cynical; it is fact.

If, as Upton Sinclair forcefully implies, the newspaper does not care a hoot for the mass of the people, it can be said with equal truth that the mass of the people do not care a hoot for the newspaper. What did the mass of the people in this city care for the Daily Witness, which was so strict in its conduct in the service of the people? The Dougall

needs to be done. Public ignorance of newspapers is stupendous, and only equalled by the public's assurance that it knows all about them. Nearly every human being, from the High School girl up to the ancient bookkeeper, knows how to run a newspaper far, far better than



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those who do it for dividends or wages, though they would hesitate to advise a plumber on the wiping of a joint or an electrician on the fixing of a fuse. As long as such public ignorance remains, nothing constructive need be expected from the public.

There are oodles of criticism based on false premises. Often criticism is levelled at the person who has least to say or do in the matter, the working journalist. The journalist is an employee who has to observe the customs, orders and policies of those at the top, or get out. He may think that these customs, orders and policies are sometimes stupid, sometimes mean and dirty,

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but that is none of his business. He has no more control of his newspaper than a bank teller has control of the money passing through his hands. I do not say he should have control; I do object to the widespread assumption (only one of the features of popular ignorance concerning journalism) that he has control. As a rule, he has not even control of his own economic destiny and his working conditions, and is about the most helpless straw in the newspaper organization. The journalist's personality is often a very different thing from the personalities directing the office. I know a snug Conservative newspaper, for instance, where the Liberals would get about four-fifths of the votes; if I wanted to lay hands on some real, bang-up Bolshies I would go a-scouting in some of the offices where "back to normal" is the daily hope and prayer.

If I am not sure that journalists should have control of newspaper policies and interior economy, I am sure that an informed public should have a good deal more control than an uninformed public possesses; probably an informed public would insist on having such control; but I am also sure that such control is some way off.

Upton Sinclair wants a National Daily News edited by a Board of Editors free from all suspicion of sectionalism. It must give the news of the world from independent, reliable sources, and must have no editorials, cartoons, advertising or anything else liable to influence public opinion, directly or indirectly, in an unfair manner. That may sound fine to some persons, but I fancy publishers and journalists could shoot peas through it. An independent international news service for a national daily would cost about a million dollars a year. Big newspapers cut the news service expenses away down by their pooling systems. Other expenses (many of them peculiar to an independent newspaper) would eat up another million or so a year. Who would foot the bill? If the bill were footed, the paper would have to compete with others having lower expenses and it would eventually run itself into the economic ditch. It would be a pretty flat paper, too, that gave only the most matter-of-fact news; the dear public would not buy it. They would want "human interest" stuff, "campaign" stories, women's pages, humor, pictures and other features which do not come under the strict heading of news. Then who, anyway, is to say what is news of facts? The quantities

of news as a saleable article are known to most publishers and journalists; its quantities as cold records of fact are not known, and they might not be saleable, anyway. Your fact paper might be full of facts, and yet have so many facts of a particular kind that it would be over-balanced to the extent of being a nasty liar in the impressions it conveyed. Also, two skilled journalists can take a like string of facts and without adding a word that isn't fact present two stories that leave quite different impressions on the mind of the reader. The Board of Editors, unless it had training in the newspaper game, would have a pretty picnic.

Another solution that Upton Sinclair has in mind is the encouragement of the formation of unions of journalists, so that the control in the interest of the public might be exercised by the unions from the inside. That is a much better idea, only it goes a shade too far. If he had limited it to self-expression and self-determination of journalists in the matter of wages and working conditions, through unions, he would have something real good, for if you have journalists who are economically free and who co-operate as free men and women with their employers there would be the basis of a free press, without exclusive control on the part of either the publisher or the employed journalist. There can be no real liberty of the press as long as there is no independence of working journalists, the actual makers of newspapers, but independence is a different matter from shifting exclusive control from the publisher to the journalist.

Between you and I and the gatepost, some decent Canadian publishers — there are some in Canada, even if there isn't one left in the United States, as Upton Sinclair seems to convey — conscious that things are not as right as they would have them, anxious to put them right, bound willy nilly in a system which they must abide by or go under (and for which, in the last analysis, the ordinary citizen is really to blame) are coming to the thought that through free journalists in their own offices may lie the way to true freedom combined with economic safety, for the good of all the people.

PRIESTS ON STRIKE.

Montenegrins are suffering from a priests' strike at present and marriages and christenings have come to an end. The priests claim that the high cost of living makes it impossible to feed themselves and families — in the Greek Church priests can get married — unless their stipend is raised. The church authorities refused, so the priests struck.

One native worker for the American Red Cross has been vainly trying for a fortnight to find a priest to marry him. The strike spread westward and he tried to outspeed it across the country, but it reached the coast town of Cattaro before him and he must remain single indefinitely.

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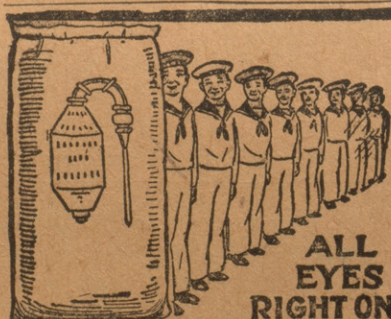
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GEORGE PIERCE, Editor

KENNEDY CRONE, Managing Editor

Railroad Adventures

BUBBLINGS in the political pool at Ottawa always bring forth something about the national railway situation. Wafting on the wings of politics is the persistent rumor that difficulties are increasing, deficits are mounting, financing is troublesome, and unavoidable situations are becoming more and more complex. It is gradually dawning on us that over-development of transportation is just about on a par with no transportation at all. The transcontinental project is just being brought home to the tax payers in its complete absurdity. The tragedy of the exploit will strike us with full force in due time. Just now we hear the mumbling and the rumbling which foretells the eruption of the volcano. The signs of trouble are clearly read in the worries that have been born of the "No politics" order on the government railways. A board has been appointed by the Minister of Labor to make an enquiry, but the directorate does not recognize it, and is stated to be prepared to ignore its decree. It is even declared that if a decision contrary to Mr. D. B. Hanna's decree should be rendered by the Conciliation Board, the directorate would resign rather than accept the findings of the Board. It is the old story over and over again. What is everybody's business is nobody's business.

Before we are through with our railroading adventures, the Canadian public will have rather a complete education on the vicissitudes and the difficulties attendant upon running a modern transportation company.

Recently I greeted a railroad man who was hurrying down the street with a grim look of determination.

"Where are you headed for?" was my query.

"Tax Office," was the laconic reply.

"Well, why so sour about it?" was my contribution to the conversation.

"Sour!" he shouted. "I'm mad clear through! Here I am working on the C. P. R., just got my pay cheque, and now I am off to the tax office to pay my share of the National Railway deficit in income tax. Some stunt!" and he grinned.

"Some stunt" I echoed.

He passed on, but I didn't grin. The irony was just beginning to sink in and I was beginning to puzzle it out. He was right; it was some stunt.

—George Pierce.

Wages and Prices

A FINANCIAL paper prints statistics of the manufacturing industries of Canada for the years 1918 and 1917, which it says represents the latest results of the work of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. It is assumed that the financial paper gives the statistics correctly; proof readers on financial papers are generally careful about figures. But the figures given differ very considerably from the preliminary statement for 1918 made by the Bureau of Statistics some time ago; it may also be mentioned that the statistics for 1917 differ from those which were accepted as correct in the controversy which took place in Toronto a year or so ago during a conference of manufacturers and labor men under the auspices of the Industrial Unrest Commission.

The work of the Bureau of Statistics ought to be of first importance, and it should not be two years behind the times. Unfortunately there appears to be some reason to question the value of some statistics compiled at Ottawa. The Labor Gazette, for instance certified year after year that a six-roomed sanitary house rented for \$15 a month in a city where such a house rented from \$45 to \$60. Also the Department of Fisheries based its estimates of the value of lobsters on an assumed price of \$5 per crate at a time the fishermen were receiving \$25. It is perhaps a pity the Chicago efficiency experts were not turned loose in the Bureau of Statistics, instead of being given an opportunity to prove their incompetence in upsetting the affairs of other departments of the civil service.

However, the statistics, as given in a financial paper, show the position of the manufacturing industries as follows:

	1918.	1917.
Capital invested	\$3,034,301,915	\$2,786,647,727
Employees on salaries	75,198	73,605
Salaries	\$107,462,484	\$94,992,246
Employees on wages	602,589	601,305
Wages	521,998,378	455,199,823
Cost of material	\$1,900,252,314	\$1,605,730,640
Value of product	\$3,458,036,975	\$3,015,577,940

According to these figures the wage-earners employed in the manufacturing industries gained something at the expense of the manufacturer in 1918, as compared with 1917, but they did not improve their economic position, measured by their ability to purchase the finished product, one iota.

Deduct the cost of materials from the value of the finished product and we arrive at the values added by the manufacturing process. In 1918 this was \$1,558,000,000, and in 1917, \$1,410,000,000. Of these values, we find that the wage earner received in—

1918	33.5 per cent
1917	32.3 " "

Apparently the wage earner improved his position, and so he did with respect to the manufacturer—to the extent of 1.5 per cent. But figuring out the relation between the value of the finished product and wages we find that the purchasing power of the wages of industrial employees with respect to manufactured articles, remained stationary. The proportions of the value of the finished product received by the wage earners were:

In 1918	15.09 per cent
" 1917	15.09 " "

The latest figures supplied by the Bureau of Statistics show labor to be in a worse position than did the statistics from the same source previously presented in these columns.

—Colin McKay.

THE CANADIAN RAILROADER is a carrier and interpreter of the news and views of the common people.

Blaming the Immigrant

THE subject of immigration is one that never fails to interest and arouse labor men and social welfare workers, and in both cases there is apt to be some rather exaggerated language used. Thus, at a recent meeting of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council a bitter invective against immigration of European settlers was uttered by a French-speaking delegate, who went the length of saying that our penitentiaries and jails were chiefly filled with these people. As a matter of fact, a glance at blue books will show that such is not the case. Statistics on the Montreal jail last week showed the following facts: Of 5,447 persons who had passed through that institution within the year 1920, 3,168 were born in Canada, there being 2,147

French-Canadians and 1,021 English-Canadians. For the rest there were 454 who claimed the United States as their native land, 381 England, 273 Ireland, 181 Scotland, 65 Italy, 35 France, 21 China, 14 Germany, and the balance of nearly 500 came from what is known as Central Europe.

It must be borne in mind, however, that these new arrivals from the less civilized countries are the hewers of wood and drawers of water in this country, often doing street scavenging or rail and lumber camp jobs that no one else will do; so that it would seem, in common fairness, if we want labor of that sort, we must take the rough-cut as well as the smooth-cut. To some it appears an unfair attitude to say to the older countries: "We will take all the cream you have, but no milk."

In addition to these official statistics, there was recently added a statement bearing some weight, since it came from the general secretary of the Family Welfare Association, recently the Charity Organization Society. At the annual meeting of the organization Mr. J. B. Dawson was analyzing the cases of distress handled by it. There was a disposition in some quarters, he said, to explain the burden of dependency in terms of the newly-arrived immigrant, or to picture the highly-paid laborer who had come to grief because he had spent his substance in riotous living. But of 211 families helped, 154 had been resident in Canada for ten years and 192 families for over three years. As to high wages, in 126 cases the wages had been under \$30 a week and in 90 cases less than \$20.

Some of the social workers have also laid a large burden of illegitimacy or delinquency on the English domestics who have come here; but Commissioner David Lamb, of the Salvation Army, recently assured the writer that he could produce figures which would absolutely refute this charge.

Is it not time that some of these critics of the immigrants took stock of the imported citizens who lead in the religious world, in finance and commerce, in educational institutions, in engineering? If so, they might see that when the balance is struck it is in favor of the importees.

—Caedmon.

THE RETREAT OF THE REAL RUSSIANS.



Lenin is resolved to expel, by violence if necessary, the third internationale—socialists who refuse to march under the banners of Marxian communism.
La Rire, Paris.



OLD GROUCH says: "Life is mostly made up of prayin' for rain an' then wishin' it would clear off".

Up Go the Rents Again

THE extortioneering landlord is back at his annual tricks in Montreal, aided and abetted by the scarcity of houses. Many landlords have already notified tenants that rents after the first of May will rise from 10 to 75 per cent higher than the previous year's prices.

The worker is supposed to be cheerful if he is out of work or accepts a cut in wages, and at the same time pay higher rents, which is a fine way of reconstruction after the war.

One hopeful thought about it (though it is tragic in the way of reading), is that people must have houses whether they are able to pay for them or not, that there will not be enough collectors to collect rent arrears or bailiffs to sell up household sticks, and that when collectors and bailiffs get over-apparent there will be a nice pot of trouble boiling for the landlords and the authorities. A lot of house renters are already at the end of patience and purse, and the extortioneering landlord is liable to get some of his deserts this year, no thanks to the elected "representatives" of the people.

—Kennedy Crone.

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SIDE LINES

The Crime of Raising a Family; and an Awful Grouch Against the Movies

(By Kennedy Crone).

IT is fast becoming a crime to raise a family. When I was a kid I used to hear aunties and others bragging about the number of children they had. It is old-fashioned to brag now; the less said about families the better. It isn't genteel to have a large family, and it is quite in style to have no family at all.

Everything is against the family raisers; they are discountenanced and discouraged by circumstances and environment, social and economic. By and by, if development proceeds along present lines, there may be a section of the Criminal Code to provide jail terms for any married couple having a child, with penitentiary periods for further convictions, and perhaps a life sentence when convictions exceed, say, the number of five. If the crime was at any time aggravated by the arrival of twins, a flogging of the parents might be added. The children could be deported to Tahiti or Seringapatam or some other place where the inhabitants were still uncivilized enough to feed such articles.

Within recent times I have had a task trying to get a better house because there are seven children tagging behind. (Seven!—disgraceful, isn't it?) Seven out of ten landlords have refused to consider me as a tenant on account of the family, despite the fact that other landlords with experience of it certificate it as being reasonably free from destructive tendencies or dreadful noises.

"If I have any houses to rent on February 1st," said one landlord, "I can get my pick of couples without children, and they are usually willing to compete in the matter of rent, too."

Another came near to renting me a house. "You say you have children," said he. "Well, I don't mind them much. How many?"

"Seven."

"Seven! Nothing doing!"

An old lady who owned nine flats was quite chatty and enthusiastic when I spoke to her about one of the flats. She told me that I would like the place and the people round about. "I have raised a large family myself, but families spoil property, you know. There isn't a single child in any of my flats. You couldn't get more select company."

"Madam," said I, penitently, "I have children." I did not say how many, lest she set the Boston bulldog on me.

"Children!" she exclaimed; "why didn't you say so before!"

A landlord who did not object to families said that as his houses were near a school he could get higher rents from persons with children, as they wanted to get as close to the

school as possible for the sake of the youngsters. There's a nice little sidelight.

Still another landlord said that as family men had heavier expenses than childless couples they were not so regular with their rent, so he preferred childless couples.

"I don't object to children," said another, "but two of my present tenants object to them."

Some public man said in print the other day that there were lots of houses to rent. I wish he would find one for me, with seven rooms, near a school, in a working class district, rent around \$30. I will say he has a claim to be a public man after that.

In 15 years I have paid in rent the market price of two of the sort of houses I have lived in. My rent has included taxes, insurance, repairs, interest on mortgages—and profit. I have bought them for others who did not use them, and it seems to me that there's something rotten in the state when such is the case. If I hadn't had a family I could easily have saved enough money to start out as a landlord, eventually getting the family men to pay back in rent my deposit, clear my mortgages, and hand over the property to me in good repair. That might have been more comfortable in many ways, but I am not sure that it would have been any happier, which only goes to show that I am rather out of date, impractical, an annoyance to the lieges, beyond reform, possibly a little unhinged. In a more civilized era in the future I would probably be jailed or sent to a mental clinic.

NO, Algernon; I am not going to the movies to-night.

I don't want to see the sweet maid from the country run the perils of the wicked city, and, when all seems lost, be saved and married by the rich young feller. Why doesn't she go to the Y. W. C. A.? Why doesn't the rich young feller get a job once in a while?

And I would like to tie an old tin can to the eternal triangle, which is eternally in the movies. Why not have a quadrangle for a change, or a pentagon or an octagon, or — happy thought! — just a common pairing off without any angles?

I am fed up with sentimental slop and slush, and sensational slime and slaughter, and slapstick silliness and sterility. The army of caption writers, recruited at great expense from the yellow press, should be locked up with pencils in each hand and ordered to write captions in English for the Chinese.

Much of the movie game is false while it poses as faithful. It has less relation to life than to leprosy. It is more artifice than art. Its "publicity stunts" are the flim-

flammiest flim-flam. (Good-bye to my chances of a little job on the side!) It is moulded and directed as an article of commerce; made, bought and sold like lard, and without the conscience required of the lard-maker by statute. It is bad enough with censorship; it would be a much more terrible orgy of piffle, putrefaction and propaganda without it.

There is no doubt of the great possibilities of the movies as entertainment, elevation and instruction in a cheap and convenient form, but their possibilities have been travestied and burlesqued by the producers and the exhibitors. It is useless to blame the actors, actresses, stage directors and photographers; they are only numbers who punch a clock, automatons who have no right to think and who must do as they are told or look for another job. The trouble is higher up, where men with long cigars tilted up at an angle of forty-five from a corner of the mouth are thinking only of power and of making two dollars out of one, with devil a care as to how power is won or money made.

I protest at having to look at six pictures to see a picture that is clean or clever, or fair or funny, or inspiring or instructive, or true or trim. So I am taking a rest from the movies. This decision may not worry the fellows higher up, but I will save a quarter a spasm and be minus spasm.

The motion picture industry is the third largest industry in the United States. It is probably more effec-

tive as a moulder of the people in many directions than the law, the church or the school, yet it is practically without public control. It does not even care for its own operators, most of whom are said to have tuberculosis. Sometimes there is a half-hearted censorship of the product; there is no direct brake on the personality of the producer. Nobody can send him to jail for a term not exceeding one hundred years, and that is a misfortune.

It has been said that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. It ought to, but I beg leave to deny the assumption. The hand that rocks the cradle is old and worn with sacrifice willingly undertaken and quite willingly permitted to be undertaken. It's an awful job to get a pension for the hand that rocks the cradle. I submit that the hand that pumps the propaganda rules the world. The movies cannot be beat for propaganda pumping. For all we know, the producers may be Prussians demoralizing us in preparation for the next war, or Turks trying to turn us over to Islam, or Trozkys laying the powder for social fireworks, or "normalcy" exponents embittering us against the labor movement, or king-pins of finance working us into a state where they can pick our pockets more efficiently. Anyway, we take too much about them for granted. I am a Doubting Thomas about their air of righteousness, their high regard for beloved patrons, and the kisses they blow in the name of ART. We are asleep at the switch.

"Can I Do Without It"?



ASK yourself this question when next you think of purchasing something that is not really necessary.

The number of things you can easily do without and the amount of money you will save will be surprising.

For your present and future safety you cannot be without a Savings Account. Start one next pay day.

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The Strike in Nova Scotia

A Statement by Officers of Railroad Organizations

The strike of the engineers, firemen, conductors and brakemen employed by The Dominion Iron & Steel Company and the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company continues at this writing.

The story of the strike was explained in detail in the issue of January 22nd, but in order to emphasize the arbitrary action of the two corporations and the comparatively low wage paid to the employees affected, it is believed a further review will be interesting and timely.

The employees of the companies affected endeavored to secure a wage rate that would be equal to, or closer to, the going rate paid for like service by the railways than was being paid by the companies approached. The representatives of the employees proposed that a Board of Investigation be appointed, composed of the six railway officials representing the Canadian railroads on Canadian Railway Board of Adjustment No. 1, and agreed to abide by whatever decision might be rendered by that Board, but the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company, with which negotiations were being directly conducted, refused to have anything to do with the proposition. When all of the efforts of the employees to bring about an adjustment of their differences failed, application was made to the Department of Labor under date of November 1st, 1920, for a Board of Conciliation and Investigation under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907, and under date of November 10, 1920, the employees were advised by the Registrar that the property in question did not come under the provisions of the Act, although it has been declared to be a railway by the Attorney General's Department of the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia.

The final effort on the part of the men and its failure to secure an investigation and possible adjustment of their demands left them without further recourse, except to leave the service of the Company. It was quite apparent that if negotiations could not be concluded with The Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company, recognized as a railway, it would be futile to attempt to do anything of the kind with The Dominion Iron & Steel Company. Therefore, in the firm belief that there was every justification for their decision, the employees of these companies decided that a strike be declared against both of them on November 22, 1920, which strike is still in effect.

The Sydney & Louisburg Railway and the Cumberland Railway & Coal Company are owned and controlled by The Dominion Iron & Steel Company. November 29, 1920, the yard and road employees of the Sydney & Louisburg Railway were conceded standard wage rates. December 7, 1920, the same classes of employees on the Cumberland Railway & Coal Company were allowed standard rates of pay. Bear in mind that the engineers, firemen, conductors and yardmen of The Dominion Iron & Steel Company, the Sydney & Louisburg Railway, and the Cumberland Railway & Coal Company are all working for the same corporation, namely: The Dominion Coal Company. Railroad employees of The Dominion Iron & Steel Company perform exactly the same classes of switching service as other railroad men handling cars in yards perform, while the work is more hazardous because of the dangerous conditions incident to inside work in steel industries, and because of inadequate and unsafe equipment.

The rates of pay will not bear comparison. Standard hourly rates in yard services are: Engineers 88c., firemen 70c., conductors 88c., brakemen 81c., with time and one-half for overtime after eight hours. The hourly rates paid by the Dominion Iron & Steel Company for yard service are: Engineers 64c., firemen 50c., conductors 60c., brakemen 50c., without extra compensation for overtime. The rates paid by the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company in yard service are: Engineers 57c., firemen 44c., conductors 50c., brakemen 44c., with no extra allowances for overtime. The employees of the two steel corporations were on a 12 hour day basis. Taking, by comparison, the standard hourly rates with time and one-half for overtime, and the rates paid by the steel corporations without time and one-half after eight hours, it will be seen that the wage rates paid by the two corporations involved approximate 50 per cent of the standard rates paid on Canadian railways.

Reference to the earnings of these two corporations will show that they were enormously increased during the period of the war. They also will show that during that period dividend allowances on common and in some instances on preferred stock, were increased, and that they have not decreased since that time.

Wages in every other class of service in Canada were considerably increased, and in addition to wage increases there was a general decrease in the hours of service to the effect that a

uniform eight hour day became generally operative with time and one-half for all time worked in excess of eight hours. The men in railway service on the properties of the two steel corporations involved made request for increased rates of pay and the shorter work day, but they were denied, and believing that they were wholly justified in attempting to force the issue, they decided that rather than to continue to work under such disadvantageous conditions they would leave the service of their employers and take their chances of forcing the demanded and justifiable increase in wages and reduction in the number of hours, before which overtime rates should become effective.

These employees, as has been stated, were required to work on a 12 hour day basis. Standard railway conditions require men to work eight hours a day with pay at time and one-half rates for all time worked in excess of eight hours. It is herein shown that the hourly rates paid the steel corporation employees were far below standard, and without time and one-half for overtime their wages were approximately 50 per cent of the standard rates, which is an injustice that should appeal to every citizen of Canada.

The steel corporations set up the claim that the men were not railway employees and in consequence were not entitled to the same consideration as railway employees. Other steel companies in Canada, the largest of which is the Algoma Steel Corporation, paid the standard going rate for railway employees until after the strike of the steel corporations in Nova Scotia prompted them to ask a reduction in wages following an agreement made November 1st, 1920, in which the Algoma Steel Company agreed to maintain standard rates and service conditions for one year.

This is one of the lamentable after-effects of the arbitrary refusal of the Nova Scotia steel companies to deal justly with their employees.

At the beginning of the strike the steel companies protested vigorously through the press that the men had not treated them fairly, that they did not give them sufficient opportunity to get ready for the strike. The steel companies did not expect their men would leave the service. They depended upon the rather isolated location of their plants, and the fact that the majority of the men interested were married and had their homes at Sydney and Sydney Mines, and that it would be almost impossible for them to go elsewhere in search of other employment.

To state the case plainly will be to say that they believed they had the advantage and they forced the strike. The men were fully justified in leaving the service at a time that would place them in a position of advantage if it were possible to do so.

A review of the earnings of The Dominion Iron & Steel Company will show that during the period of the war its earnings were greater by almost double than they had ever been before, and that in 1920, covering a period of world-wide business depression, their net earnings still amounted to five and one-half millions. The dividends on preferred stocks were not decreased, while the dividends on common stock for 1920 exceed by \$700,000 the amount paid in dividends on common stock in 1919, although the net operating profits were \$3,000,000 less in 1920. In 1917 the Company paid a deferred preferred dividend of \$350,000.

This should convince readers that while The Dominion Steel Corporation is wholly determined in paying a ruinous wage rate, it is equally determined to maintain better than the going rate of its dividends both common and preferred.

The Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company shows pretty much the same situation, although its report for 1920 has not as yet been published. It shows, however, that in 1917 and 1918 the operating profits were, for 1917, \$3,069,449, in 1918 they were \$3,535,525, while in 1919, when the beginning of the business depression was being felt, the operating profits were \$2,193,305. The same report shows that the net profits for 1917 were \$1,340,478, for 1918 \$1,716,492, and for 1919 \$1,029,877. The dividends paid in 1919 exceed by \$10,000 the total amounts paid in 1917 and 1918. The dividend on common stock in 1917 was \$562,500, which does not include a stock dividend paid November 30, 1917, of \$2,500,000, which is reflected in the common dividend paid in 1918 and 1919 amounting to \$750,000, almost \$200,000 on which dividend has been paid on what amounts to watered stock created in 1917. How much of these returns are on actual investment and how much on water we cannot say.

This showing of the financial position and transactions of these two corporations, coupled with the fact that up until some three years ago engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen employed by The Dominion Iron & Steel Company and by The Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company were paid wage rates almost exactly the same as those paid to similar employees on the Sydney & Louisburg Railway and on the Cumberland Coal & Railway Company, should be positive proof of the unfairness of both the corporations involved toward the employees who are on strike.

Let it be borne in mind that the men suffered their disadvantages and inconveniences for very many years, that there was no disposition on the part of the companies to adjust the many injustices that had been practiced against the men, that there was a most determined opposition against giving the men the eight hour day, the standard wage rate and service conditions that were in operation on the Canadian railways, to all of which the men felt they were entitled and in proof of that belief, after all efforts for adjustment had failed, they left the service of their employers.

If ever there was a strike in the Dominion for which there was provocation and justification, this strike of employees of the Nova Scotia steel corporations is the one. These statements are truthfully made without any disposition to misrepresent the reasons for leaving the service, or for unfairly influencing public opinion. Every statement can be substantiated by proof. These questions are placed before the Canadian public fairly and squarely so that there may be no misunderstanding of the attitude of the reasons or the purposes of the employees that led them to leave the service of The Dominion Iron & Steel Company and The Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company, November 22, 1920.

(Signed) JAMES MURDOCK,
Vice-President,
Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

(Signed) GEO. K. WARK,
Vice-President,
Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen
& Enginemen.
Also representing The Brotherhood
of Locomotive Engineers.

Housing Problem in Scotland

Worse Than Cave Dwellers.

(From our own correspondent).

DISCUSSING the outlook for the new year with regard to the housing problem, "Housing," the organ of the Housing Department of the Ministry of Health, states that "three problems confront us at the opening of 1921. The first and most crucial is the shortage of labor, due in the main to causes arising out of the war. It is hoped that there will be this year a materially increased amount of labor available for housing. During the last few months statistics show that



James Gibson

there has been a steady infiltration of labor in the housing schemes, and progress has already improved proportionately." The second factor in the problem, the supply of materials, is still serious, and becomes relatively more so as the amount of available labor increases. Here also, however, there are hopeful signs for the future. Output of materials is increasing, and the supply of cement and tiles from abroad is also growing in volume, and fuller use may well be made of materials from this source. Money, the last of the three factors necessary for the success of the housing schemes, "has been coming in quite satisfactorily. Local housing bonds, a new form of security introduced only in the early summer, have already produced over \$70,000,000, partly obtained from a class not hitherto looked upon as investors. Mortgages have provided more than \$57,500,000, and stock issues by local authorities a further \$125,000,000, so that from these three sources alone over \$250,000,000, is available for housing purposes. Added to this is the sum of some \$25,000,000, half of the proceeds of the sale of Savings Certificates since October 1, under the arrangement which makes it possible for those who can only save on the smallest scale to contribute their quota to the housing needs of the country."

In this connection it is interesting to note that Mr. Robert Smillie, President of the British Miners' Federation, who spent the New Year at his home in Larkhall, visited the Scottish Labor Housing Conference in Glasgow this week, and delivered a characteristic address. "The need for better houses" — which was his subject — led him to confess that although not an expert, they were all agreed upon the necessity for more houses. He had always wondered why it was that the most useful part of our population is the worst housed. Any stranger from another world coming here would be struck with amazement by the fact that the people who build the houses, the palaces, and the mansions, the people who

produce all the wealth of the nation are housed under miserable conditions. The Scottish Housing Commission — which by no stretch of imagination could be charged as a revolutionary body — found that in many places we are not yet far removed from the cave-dwellers of many hundred years ago. He had no doubt that a thousand years ago some of the cave dwellers were more comfortably housed than many of the working classes are to-day. Amid laughter and applause Mr. Smillie said it has been remarked that the workers built the palaces and mansions and walked out of them and built the slums and walked into them. Now the authorities are building houses — slowly, it was true — but no housing reformer could be satisfied with the kind of houses being erected. The Government would not risk the lives of their civil servants in them. He wondered often how our working classes were content with the present system. If they read about the fashionable people and the leaders of society they probably found that Lord and Lady So-and-So had dwelling houses in different parts of the country — not single apartments, but six or eight different houses. He wondered if those people ever took a thought that the time might come when the workers would become so discontented with living in slums that they would make up their minds to try and see what it would be like lodging in palaces for a time. It was absolutely disgraceful that children should be killed in thousands every day through bad housing while there were tens of thousands of empty rooms scarcely ever occupied by their owners. Mr. Smillie warned the Government, and the upper classes, that it was their duty to the working people not to retard but to assist in housing them properly. He, therefore, appealed for an accession of strength to the Association, and suggested the members might also devote attention to the land problem.

In his opening address, Bailie Wheatley, who presided, said that the past year, like 1919, showed that while they could get houses for pictures and motor-cars, they could not get dwellings for human beings. Last year they were informed that there were in Glasgow 13,000 houses, occupied by 47,000 persons, which houses were declared to be unfit for human habitation. It was also stated that in Glasgow to-day there were 1,000 houses occupied by two or more families. In his own neighborhood he knew of one case where three respectable working-class families were trying to live in an ordinary house, which had neither a bathroom nor private sanitary accommodation. The town clerk had recently stated that in Glasgow there was a shortage of 57,000 houses, but during 1920 the Corporation had completed only 64 new houses of a

permanent type. Amid applause the chairman added that the responsibility for the delay in the provision of houses was entirely that of the Government. In Glasgow they had an ideal housing director, but all over they were driven to the conclusion that the object of the Gov-

ernment's Housing policy was to prevent the erection of houses. The Rent Act was responsible for fifty million pounds going into the pockets of the property owners, and the only way out was for their association to educate the public.

—James Gibson.

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JOHN EMO
GENERAL MANAGER & SECRETARY

EX-SERVICE MAN IN DIFFICULTIES AT HIS FARM.

(Gazette).

J. J. Walker, superintendent of the S.P.C.A., who returned on Thursday evening from a trip of investigation to Labelle county, recounted recently how, on looking into a case of reported distress of animals, he had found a whole family, including seven small children, in miserable circumstances. J. B. Selby, who, after discharge from the army, took up a farm under the Soldiers' Settlement Board at Conception, Que., in November, 1919, had little success as a farmer, evidently not raising sufficient produce to feed his stock or his family throughout the winter.

Mr. Walker, on visiting the farm last week, found four cows and two horses without any food whatever, while two horses and one calf had already died of starvation, one horse dying on December 23 and the other just after the New Year.

The family of father, mother and seven children, between the ages of five months and seven years, had scarcely any food in the house, but did not look as though they had been suffering severely from hunger. The children had insufficient clothing, several of them having neither boots nor stocking and all lacking warm underwear. Both father and mother were out seeking work or assistance when Mr. Walker arrived at the farm. The house had an air of absolute poverty, a table, a few chairs, a broken sofa and a cradle being the

only furniture visible, while straw had been used to reinforce for warmth the small amount of bed clothes spread upon the sofa, which evidently did service as a bed.

The children were all bright and intelligent, and two of them announced themselves the possessors of "real war names," in their own words, a boy proclaiming himself Douglas Haig Selby, and a girl Edith Cavell Selby.

Enough hay and fodder was procured by Superintendent Walker to keep the animals for three weeks. The matter of helping the family has been taken up with the Red Cross, and several of the women interested in the S.P.C.A. have volunteered to send some assistance. The case has also been reported to the Soldiers' Settlement Board.

"I'm sorry, young man," said the druggist, as he eyed the small boy over the counter, "but I can only give you half as much castor-oil for a dime as I used to."

The boy blithely handed him the coin. "I'm not kicking," he remarked. "The stuff's for me." — The Watchman-Examiner (New York).

WRONG SIGN.

A farmer hitched his team to a telephone-pole.

"Here," exclaimed a policeman, "you can't hitch there!"

"Can't hitch!" shouted the irate farmer. "Well, why does the sign say, 'Fine for Hitching'?" — The Catholic News.

Ganong's Chocolates

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HIS CHOICE

My daddy is a railroad man
'N' oh! I love him so,
He hitches up the cars alright
'N' makes the engine go.

He goes way off a right long ways
'N' den comes back at night.
His clothes is awful dirty
'N' his face is dust a sight.

But muvver doesn't say a word
'Bout his clothes or hands or feet,
But hustles dust as fast she can
'N' gets him something good to eat.

But when I gets all dirty,
When I goes out to play—
She looks dust awful cross at me
'N' has a lot to say.

So, when I gets to be a man,
Dares one fing dat I know,
I'll be dust like my daddy—
I'll make the engine go.

MUSHY.

"These love scenes are rotten.
Can't the leading man act as if he
is in love with the star?"
"Can't act at all," said the direc-
tor. "Trouble is, he is in love with
her."—Louisville Courier-Journal.



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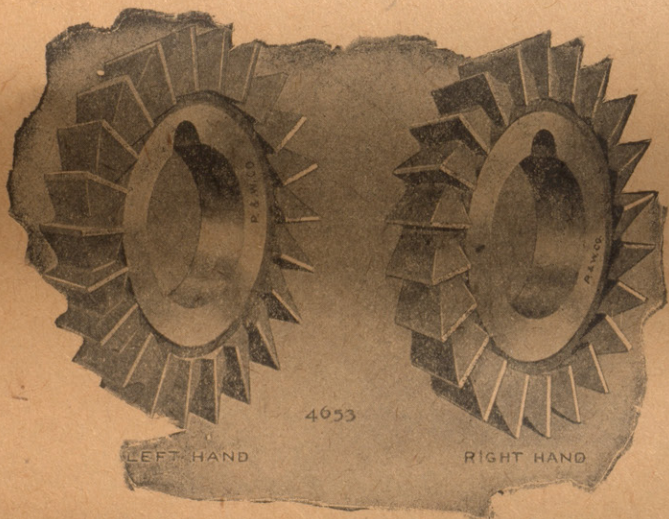
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The Truth About the Strike of Engineers, Firemen, Con- ductors and Yardmen

on The Dominion Iron and Steel Company's Property
and Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company's Property
at Sydney and Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia

STRIKE BECAME EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 22, 1920.

NOVEMBER 29, 1920, the same classes of employees on the Sydney and Louis-
burg Ry. were conceded standard wage rates.

DECEMBER 7, 1920, standard rates of pay were conceded similar classes of em-
ployees on the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company.

ENGINEERS, FIREMEN, CONDUCTORS AND YARDMEN on the Dominion Iron
and Steel Company, the Sydney & Louisburg Railway and the Cumberland
Railway and Coal Company are working for the same Corporation, namely,
the Dominion Coal Company.

RAILROAD MEN of the Dominion Iron & Steel Company perform exactly the
same class of switching service as other railroad men handling cars in yards,
but the work is, if anything, more dangerous on account of lack of safety
equipment.

EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT that could be thought of was made by the Organi-
zations to submit questions in dispute to arbitration.

THE LABOR DEPARTMENT denied the employees a board of investigation on
the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company.

CONTRADICTION ISSUED by the Labor Department. Notwithstanding, the
proof is in possession of the employees.

MEN ON STRIKE were required to work twelve hours for which their compen-
sation was approximately fifty per cent of standard compensation for the
same number of hours.

COMPANIES CLAIM these railroad men are part of a steel industry concern and
that wages should be dependent on the rise and the fall of the steel market,
BUT, this theory WAS NOT applied when the two steel companies, under
war emergency, were making enormous profits.

THE TWO PROPERTIES where strike is in effect are part of the proposed British
Empire Steel Corporation, in which proposed merger there is said to be
\$130,000,000.00 of watered stock or good will, which will, no doubt, be expected
to pay standard dividends while railroad men on the properties are expected
to work fifty per cent. BELOW STANDARD.

JAMES MURDOCK,
Vice-President,
Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

GEO. K. WARK,
Vice-President,
Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen
and Engineers; also representing
The Brotherhood of Loco-
motive Engineers.